IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

KATHER	INE DEVINE and LAVAR	:	CIVIL ACTION
TURNER	on behalf of themselves and others		

similarly situated, : NO. _____

Plaintiffs, : CLASS/COLLECTIVE ACTION

NORTHEAST TREATMENT CENTERS, : JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

INC., : JURY IRIAL DEMANDI

Defendants.

v.

<u>COMPLAINT – CLASS/COLLECTIVE ACTION</u>

Katherine Devine ("Devine") and Lavar Turner ("Turner") (together "Plaintiffs") bring this lawsuit against NorthEast Treatment Centers, Inc. ("Defendant"), seeking all available relief under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, et seq., and the Pennsylvania Minimum Wage Act ("PMWA"), 43 P.S. §§ 333.101, et seq. Plaintiffs' FLSA claim is asserted as a collective action under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), while their PMWA claim is asserted as a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. See Knepper v. Rite Aid Corp., 675 F.3d 249 (3d Cir. 2012) (collective and class claims may proceed together in the same lawsuit).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- Jurisdiction over the FLSA claim is proper under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and 28
 U.S.C. § 1331.
 - 2. Jurisdiction over the PMWA claim is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
 - 3. Venue in this Court is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

PARTIES

- 4. Devine resides in Philadelphia, PA.
- 5. Turner resides in Philadelphia, PA.

- 6. Defendant is a corporate entity headquartered in Philadelphia, PA.
- 7. Plaintiffs are employees covered by the FLSA and PMWA.
- 8. Defendant is an employer covered by the FLSA and PMWA.

FACTS

- 9. Defendant is "one of largest behavioral health and social services agencies in the region."
- 10. Defendant, operating through a contract with the City of Philadelphia and overseen by the City's Department of Human Services, provides foster care services within geographic regions designated as "CUA 1" and "CUA 7."
- 11. In providing the above foster care services, Defendant employs Case Managers.The City describes the Case Manager position as follows:

If it is determined that DHS services are needed, the child will be assigned a CUA case manager. This person will be the main point of contact for you and your foster child. The case manager: Sets up meetings and coordinates with other professionals working with your family[;] Attends court hearings[;] Sets up a visitation schedule with the child's biological parents, when possible[; and] Checks on children in your care regularly.²

- 12. Devine has worked for Defendant as a Case Manager since around November 2018.
- 13. Turner worked for Defendant as Case Manager from around December 2019 until around March 2020.
- 14. Because the Case Manager position does not require specialized academic training, Case Managers have college degrees in a wide variety of fields.

http://netcenters.org/about-us/overview/ (last viewed May 21, 2020).

https://www.phila.gov/departments/department-of-human-services/foster-care/who-is-involved-in-your-foster-childs-case/ (last viewed May 21, 2020).

- 15. During the three-year period covered by this lawsuit, Case Managers have regularly worked over 40 hours per week. For example, it is/was not unusual for Devine and Turner to work over 50 hours per week as Case Managers.
- 16. Prior to July 1, 2019, Defendant paid Case Managers annual salaries of around \$45,000.
- 17. Prior to July 1, 2019, Defendant, as a matter of company policy, never paid Case Managers overtime compensation for hours worked over 40 per week.
 - 18. Since July 1, 2019, Defendant has paid Case Managers around \$21 per hour.
- 19. Since July 1, 2019, Defendant has paid Case Managers time and one-half overtime compensation for *some* of their hours worked over 40 per week. Other overtime hours, however, have gone unpaid because Defendant's administrators and supervisors, *inter alia*: (i) refuse to "approve" overtime pay for hours that are overtly and necessarily worked by Case Managers; (ii) instruct Case Managers to under-report their work hours for payroll purposes; (iii) make downward adjustments to Case Managers' reported work hours; and (iv) ignore the obvious fact (as exemplified by, *inter alia*, computer log-in data, telephone calls, and email correspondence) that Case Managers regularly work during evenings and weekends.
- 20. In providing the foster care services referenced in paragraph 10, Defendant employs **Aftercare Workers**. According to Defendant, Aftercare Workers "support[] families who have been successfully discharged from DHS/CUA formal case-management services."
 - 21. Turner worked for Defendant as an Aftercare Worker from around February 2019

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³https://jobs.ecipay.com/prod/net/EmpApp/(X(1)S(yd10nel4shhxxr3vmhjz4b1y))/JobList.aspx?ID=Y7FqLA%2fZ%2f9Bt7wIx%2b1%2b%2fmA%3d%3d&REQID=CiekDPLFsbLgApvQ6PdlJA%3d%3d (last viewed May 21, 2020).

until around December 2019.

- 22. Because the Aftercare Worker position does not require specialized academic training, Aftercare Workers have college degrees in a wide variety of fields.
- 23. During the three-year period covered by this lawsuit, Aftercare Workers have regularly worked over 40 hours per week. For example, it was not unusual for Turner to work over 50 hours per week as an Aftercare Worker.
- 24. Prior to July 1, 2019, Defendant paid Aftercare Workers annual salaries of around \$35,000.
- 25. Prior to July 1, 2019, Defendant, as a matter of company policy, never paid Aftercare Workers overtime compensation for hours worked over 40 per week.
 - 26. Since July 1, 2019, Defendant has paid Aftercare Workers around \$17 per hour.
- 27. Since July 1, 2019, Defendant has paid Aftercare Workers time and one-half overtime compensation for *some* of their hours worked over 40 per week. Other overtime hours, however, have gone unpaid because Defendant's administrators and supervisors: (i) refuse to "approve" overtime pay for hours that are overtly and necessarily worked by Aftercare Workers; (ii) instruct Aftercare Workers to under-report their work hours for payroll purposes; (iii) make downward adjustments to Aftercare Workers' reported work hours; and (iv) ignore the obvious fact (as exemplified by, *inter alia*, computer log-in data, telephone calls, and email correspondence) that Aftercare Workers regularly work during evenings and weekends.

CLASS/COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

28. Plaintiffs bring their FLSA claim as a collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b) and bring their PMWA claim as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. Devine and Turner sue on behalf of all Case Managers employed by Defendant

within the past three years. In addition, Turner sues on behalf of all Aftercare Workers employed by Defendant within the past three years.

- 29. Plaintiffs' FLSA claim should proceed as a collective action because they and other putative collective members, having worked pursuant to the common payroll policies and practices described herein, are "similarly situated" as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and the associated decisional law.
- 30. Class action treatment of Plaintiffs' PMWA claim is appropriate because, as alleged below, all of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23's class action requisites are satisfied.
- 31. The class, upon information and belief, includes over 100 individuals, all of whom are readily ascertainable based on Defendant's payroll records and are so numerous that joinder of all class members is impracticable.
- 32. Plaintiffs are class members, their claims are typical of the claims of other class members, and they have no interests that are antagonistic to or in conflict with the interests of other class members.
- 33. Plaintiffs and their lawyers will fairly and adequately represent the class members and their interests.
- 34. Questions of law and fact are common to all class members, because, *inter alia*, this action concerns Defendant's common payroll policies and practices described herein. The legality of these policies will be determined through the application of generally applicable legal principles to common facts.
- 35. Class certification is appropriate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) because common questions of law and fact predominate over questions affecting only individual class members and because a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and

efficient adjudication of this litigation.

COUNT I(Alleging FLSA Violations)

- 36. The FLSA requires that employees receive overtime compensation "not less than one and one-half times" their regular pay rate for hours worked over 40 per week. *See* 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1).
- 37. Defendant violated the FLSA by failing to pay Plaintiffs and the FLSA collective overtime compensation for all hours worked over 40 per week.
- 38. In violating the FLSA, Defendant acted willfully and with reckless disregard of clearly applicable FLSA provisions and, as such, willfully violated the FLSA.

COUNT II (Alleging PMWA Violations)

- 39. The PMWA requires that employees receive overtime compensation "not less than one and one-half times" the employee's regular pay rate for hours worked over 40 per week. *See* 43 P.S. § 333.104(c).
- 40. Defendant violated the PMWA by failing to pay Plaintiffs and the Rule 23 class overtime compensation for all hours worked over 40 per week.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a jury trial.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and other members of the class/collective, seek the following relief:

- A. Unpaid overtime wages and prejudgment interest;
- B. Liquidated damages to the fullest extent permitted under the FLSA;

- C. Litigation costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees; and
- D. Any other relief the Court deems just and proper.

Date: May 22, 2020 Respectfully,

s/ Peter Winebrake

Peter Winebrake
R. Andrew Santillo
Mark J. Gottesfeld
Winebrake & Santillo, LLC
715 Twining Road, Suite 211
Dresher, PA 19025
(215) 884-2491

Plaintiffs' Counsel

CONSENT TO BECOME PARTY PLAINTIFF

I hereby consent, pursuant to Section 16(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), to become a party plaintiff in the accompanying FLSA action. I understand that I will be bound by the judgment of the Court on all issues in this case.

Signature

Katie Devine

Print Name

CONSENT TO BECOME PARTY PLAINTIFF

I hereby consent, pursuant to Section 16(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), to become a party plaintiff in the accompanying FLSA action. I understand that I will be bound by the judgment of the Court on all issues in this case.

Signature

Lavar Turner

Print Name

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS		
KATHERINE DEVINE ar and others similarly situa		n behalf of themse	elves	NORTHEAST TRE	EATMENT CENTERS, IN	NC.
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia				County of Residence	Philadelphia	
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES C	•	
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, .	Address, and Telephone Numbe	r)		Attorneys (If Known)		
Winebrake & Santillo, LL 19025; Ph: (215) 884-24			r, PA	Unknown		
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)			RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 7 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State 1			
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh.)	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	2	
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT		rly)	T ru	NI TORING	Click here for: Nature	of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES
CONTRACT 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJUR		DRFEITURE/PENALTY 25 Drug Related Seizure	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 375 False Claims Act
☐ 120 Marine	☐ 310 Airplane	☐ 365 Personal Injury -		of Property 21 USC 881	☐ 423 Withdrawal	🗇 376 Qui Tam (31 USC
☐ 130 Miller Act☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability	Product Liability 367 Health Care/	· □ 69	00 Other	28 USC 157	3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	320 Assault, Libel &	Pharmaceutical			PROPERTY RIGHTS	☐ 410 Antitrust
& Enforcement of Judgment		Personal Injury			☐ 820 Copyrights☐ 830 Patent	☐ 430 Banks and Banking ☐ 450 Commerce
☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	☐ 330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability 368 Asbestos Persona	ıl		☐ 835 Patent - Abbreviated	460 Deportation
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(Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 345 Marine Product Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPE	RTY	LABOR	☐ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY	Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit
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☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending		Act 20 Labor/Management	☐ 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
☐ 190 Other Contract☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability 360 Other Personal	☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage		Relations	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury	☐ 385 Property Damage	□ 74	10 Railway Labor Act	□ 865 RSI (405(g))	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts
	☐ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	D 75	1 Family and Medical Leave Act		☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 895 Freedom of Information
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIC	NS 🗆 79	00 Other Labor Litigation	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	Act
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☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment	463 Alien Detainee510 Motions to Vacat		Income Security Act	or Defendant) 7 871 IRS—Third Party	☐ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Fair Labor Stand	ards Act	are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional sta	tutes unless diversity);	
	Brief description of ca Failure to pay over					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTIO	N D	EMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CASI	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

	Philadelphia, PA 19120 / 2619 West Sel				
Address of Defendant:					
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:					
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:					
Case Number:	Judge:	Date Terminated:			
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered	to any of the following questions:				
Is this case related to property included in an ear previously terminated action in this court?	lier numbered suit pending or within one year	Yes No V			
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or a pending or within one year previously terminated		Yes No V			
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement numbered case pending or within one year previous		Yes No V			
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus case filed by the same individual?		Yes No 🗸			
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ithis court except as noted above.	is / N is not related to any case now pending or w	ithin one year previously terminated action in PA-80496			
DATE: 05/22/2020	Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff	Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)			
	THOUTHY WE SEE THE W				
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)					
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Ca				
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and A2. FELA	All Other Contracts	ct and Other Contracts Il Injury			
 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 	3. Assault, Defamat 4. Marine Personal	ion			
5. Patent	5. Motor Vehicle Pe	ersonal Injury			
6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights	6. Other Personal In 7. Products Liability	njury (Please specify):y			
8. Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability	y – Asbestos			
10. Social Security Review Cases	9. All other Diversit (Please specify):	ly Cases			
11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): Fair Labor Stan	dards Act				
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(The offered	ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION	2			
	of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for	or arouration.)			
I, Peter Winebrake	ounsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:				
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:					
Relief other than monetary damages is sough	ght.				
DATE: 05/22/2020	Orti. Wulke	PA-80496			
	Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff	Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)			
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there ha	as been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.				

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

ATHERINE	DEVINE,	et al.	:		CIVIL ACTION		
NORTHEAST	V.	1T 4-1-	: :				
NORTHEAST INC.	TREATME	NI CENTE	; , ;		NO.		
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MAY 22, Date	2020	PETER	WINEBR	AKE	PLAINTIFFS		
Date (215) 884 -		Attorn	ey-at-law 894-249		Attorney for nebrake whebrake	91.1	. (04-
(-17) 007	-611	(413)	001-411	<u> </u>	HERVER GRINERIANE		- -
Telephone		FAX N	lumber		E-Mail Address		

(Civ. 660) 10/02